

February 8 *Immerse Reflections...*by Jackie Splinter

As a first time blogger, I will simply reflect on (and ask questions of) the passages I have read for today (pp 24-30). I am eager to hear what others have gleaned from these readings too.

- Yesterday we read about how the Lord had appeared to Abraham as he sat outside his tent on a very hot day. The text said three men appeared – I assume that at least two of these men were the angels who later reappear in Sodom (was God also a separate but real presence at the tent?).
- Today we jump into the story as the three strangers depart for Sodom. The Lord is debating whether to include Abraham in His plan (...debating with Himself? With Christ and/or the Spirit?). We listen in on an intimate, seemingly in-person conversation between God and Abraham (how can we experience this kind of intimate conversation with God ourselves?). Abraham seems to successfully negotiate a far milder consequence for Sodom's sin than God's original intention (can we actually "negotiate" with God?).
- God's plan is executed, and Lot and his family (minus his too curious wife) are spared from destruction...only to return to their sinful ways as his daughters chose to sleep with their father to ensure the family line (when God shows Himself in obvious and powerful ways, how often do we still seek to be "in control" of our own outcomes?)
- Moving right along, we're back with Abraham, and read AGAIN how he tries to pass Sarah off as his sister to save his own life. The text reveals that Sarah is indeed his half sister (I didn't know that), so are "half truths" okay then? Abraham pulls Sarah into his deception, and thus sin here corrupts more than the original sinner.
- Finally we read about the competition between Isaac and Ishmael for Abraham's promised inheritance. Sarah seeks to protect her desired outcome, but God intervenes to protect the outcast. His holy plan includes a purpose and a future for Ishmael (which today is represented by the Muslim Community), and God remains present and faithful to him, even in the wilderness. (how has God been present and faithful to others and to me in times of challenge or wilderness?)
- That's all from me for today...I am truly enjoying this shared journey through the Bible and the sacred insights and questions it will offer us all. I can't wait to read and discuss some of your reflections too!